

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 were examined in the Office Action mailed November 19, 2010, while claims 10-15 remain withdrawn pursuant to election/restriction requirement. The following new grounds of rejection are currently pending:

- Rejection of claims 1 and 4-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,503,334 to Ruiz, *et al.* ("Ruiz") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,609,878 to Ootoshi, *et al.* ("Ootoshi").
- Rejection of claims 2-3 under § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ruiz and Ootoshi, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,922,173 to Lind, *et al.* ("Lind").

The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections on the grounds that the cited references do not teach or suggest all of the features of the present invention recited in the pending claims and thus one of ordinary skill in the art would not have sought to combine the teachings of these references to obtain the present invention.

The Ruiz reference teaches a gas turbine maintenance method in which a cleaning solution in a mist form is forced by a high pressure gas through the air intake of the compressor section of said gas turbine or through the fuel nozzles. *See, e.g.*, Ruiz at 4:39. In order to build up the high pressure, the attachment of the mist nozzle to the air intake and/or to the fuel nozzle must be made in a manner which seals the gas turbine interior spaces from the external environment. Thus, Ruiz teaches that there is no need or reason to place the gas turbine entirely in an apparatus, *i.e.*, the cleaning solution is totally containing in and contacting the internal surfaces of the turbine, so there is no suggestion of any use of an external enclosure in this reference. *Accord*, Ruiz Figs. 1-5 (showing only the mounting base which holds the turbine and the attachment of

a blower duct to the front of the turbine intake, with no reference to any form of external containment). Ruiz therefore does not teach or suggest claim 1's requirement for the gas turbine "before being disassembled, [being] placed *entirely within a first apparatus which is at least largely sealed against a cleaning agent being emitted therein.*"

Further, in view of Ruiz' limited teaching of an internally-contained cleaning process, its combination with Ootoshi would not result in the invention recited in claim 1.

Ootoshi is cited as teaching the idea of moving a turbine between work stations. November 19, 2010 Office Action at 3. Neither Ruiz nor Ootoshi teaches or suggests a method of turbine maintenance in which the turbine is entirely placed in an apparatus which is sealed against a cleaning agent. Combining both documents would simply result in a disassembly line disclosed and shown in Ootoshi (*see, e.g.*, Figs. 1, 3), with the *internal* portions of the gas turbine being sealed against leakage of the cleaning solution.

Because the cited references do not teach or suggest all of the features of the present invention recited in claim 1, and therefore no combination of these references would result in the present invention (and thus one of ordinary skill would not have sought to combine them to obtain the present invention), the Applicant submits that claims 1-9 are patentable over these references under § 103(a). Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending § 103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

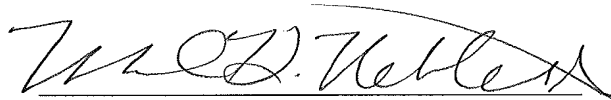
In view of the foregoing, the Applicant submits that claims 1-9 are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-9 is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #011235.55725US).

Respectfully submitted,

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Robert L. Grabarek, Jr.
Registration No. 40,625
Mark H. Neblett
Registration No. 42,028

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844